



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P 64658	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/12348	International filing date (day/month/year) 05.11.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 09.12.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G01B11/02		
Applicant SPECIALTY MINERALS MICHIGAN INC. et al.		
<p>1. This International preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 09.06.2004	Date of completion of this report 20.07.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Dighaye, J-L Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2823 	

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/12348**

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17):*

Description, Pages

1-8 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-6 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☒ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/12348**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☐ claims Nos.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 1,4 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos.

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-6
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-6
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-6
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/12348**

see separate sheet

To Section III

1. Claim 1 is not altogether clear regarding the following points:

- just before step (a), the phrase "the position[s] of the fixing marks are determined by" covers less than the scope of the subsequent steps. Since the method eventually defines the coordinate of the container, as claimed at the end of step (c), the phrase above could be replaced by "the coordinate system of the container is determined by";

- the beginning of step (a) is unclear because of the use of the indefinite article ("an" optical radiation beam). Is this the same beam as the "optical radiation" of the beginning of the claim? If so, perhaps the claim should be directed to: "A method of positioning a deflectable measuring device which emits and receives an optical radiation beam". Then step (a) would become: "deflecting the optical radiation beam";

- in step (a), there are no antecedents for "the center" (with the definite article) and the at least two linear edges of the first fixing mark. On the other hand, before step (a), the phrase "substantially regular in shape" does not provide a clear definition of the fixing marks. It would be more accurate to claim that "each of said fixing marks has a center and at least two linear edges".

2. In claim 4, the phrase "the center of the fixing marks is calculated from the intersections thereof" is unclear. (The intersections of what?). The applicant should clarify this point in the light of the original disclosure.

Note: the above-mentioned clarification will be needed if the present application is prosecuted, for instance when entering the European phase.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP03/12348

To Section V

1. The method of claim 1 is presented, in the present application, as an improvement over D1 = US-A-5 570 185.

In D1, the fixing marks "are of regular shape, preferably substantially circular, and more preferably annular" (col. 4, 64-66). They do have a center, but not "at least two linear edges" like in step (a) of present claim 1, and therefore they cannot be used for "creating a first temporary coordinate system" based on the directions of edges (present step (a)), which itself would allow for searching further fixing marks (present step (b)). Hence there is no hint, in D1, at the present method.

The other documents cited in the International Search Report are even less relevant than D1. They do not disclose or hint at the present fixing marks or the present method. Hence no obvious combination of the cited documents could arrive at the subject-matter of claim 1 as interpreted in Section III above.

2. The same holds for claims 2-6 which all depend on claim 1.

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